



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,137	02/16/2005	Dirk Herbert Teeuw	PHIL020765US1	1790
24737 7590 08/07/2009 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER				
PRONTI, JASON D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3724				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
08/07/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,137

Applicant(s)

TEEUW ET AL.

Examiner

Jason Daniel Prone

Art Unit

3724

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-14 and 16-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-14 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 3 line 1, the number phrase "1,6 and 2,0" should be replaced with "1.6 and 2.0". On page 4 line 19, the number "0,5" should be replaced with "0.5".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 16 is dependant off of cancelled claim 15. For this Office action only, claim 16 will be examined as if it was dependant off of claim 8.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Regarding claims 10, 11, 13, and 14, the phrase "diamond like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "diamond like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-11, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sastri (US Patent 3,835,537 as previously cited) in view of Wong et al. (US Patent 5,776,615 as cited in IDS).

With respect to claims 1, 2, 19, and 20, Sastri discloses a cutting member (razor blade 20) having a metal substrate which is provided with a cutting edge (tapered portion 30 shown in figure 2), at least a portion of the substrate including the cutting edge being provided with a coating (outer chromium coating 36, see column 5 lines 46-49), the coating is layered on the substrate in multiple coats as shown in figure 4. Further, Sastri discloses the coating comprising an implanted layer of Cr (36) that is implanted into the metal substrate. Examiner notes that the word "implant" merely means to fix firmly to (see dictionary.com). The blade of Sastri clearly has Cr layers which are fixed to the blade body. Sastri does not disclose the coating comprising carbon, characterized in that the coating comprises a plurality of stacked pairs of layers, each pair comprising a first layer mainly comprising carbon and a second layer mainly comprising a metal, and each pair having a thickness between 1 and 10 nm. Examiner notes that Sastri does disclose the coating comprising an implanted layer of Cr that is implanted into the metal substrate.

Wong et al. discloses a process for making superhard composite materials out of carbon and metal alternating layers for use in cutting devices. "The composite material may comprise a plurality of alternating layers comprising the carbon nitrogen compound each deposited on a respective layer of metal or metal compound to form a multi-

Art Unit: 3724

layered, superlattice coating wherein each layer is ion bombardment densified during deposition and each layer has a thickness in the range of about 0.5 nm to about 100 nm (nanometer). Such a coating exhibits a hardness substantially exceeding (e.g. 2 times) the hardness of each individual layer in homogenous form" (column 4 lines 4-12).

Wong et al. also discloses that chromium is an acceptable metal to use as it falls within group VI of the periodic table of elements (see column 3 line 60). In the setup disclosed by Wong et al, the metal/carbon pair of a layer has a thickness from 1-200nm, which overlaps sufficiently with the range 1-10nm. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the solely chromium layers of Sastri with an alternating carbon nitrogen and chromium layered pair setup in view of the teachings of Wong et al. in order to create a harder cutting surface. Further, with respect to claim 2, examiner notes the second layer in this setup is a Cr layer.

Examiner notes that the first layer, in the above modified setup includes carbon (as CN_x as taught by Wong et al.). Although the entire layer is not in the elemental form of carbon, carbon in the elemental form exists just by the nature of the element carbon being present. Further, because the claim begins with the phrase "comprising," the layer is not limited to carbon and carbon alone.

With respect to claim 3, Wong et al. discloses using the metal layer having a thickness ranging from 0.5 to 100 nm. 1.6 to 2.0 nm is fully encompassed by this range.

With respect to claims 6 and 7, Sastri in view of Wong et al. discloses that the total thickness of material added to the substrate by layering has a thickness of at least

400 Angstroms (40 nm; abstract of Sastri). No specific size of the total layer is given. However, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide enough layered pairs so that the thickness of the coating was in the range of 80 - 120 nm, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

With respect to claim 9, the modified apparatus of Sastri discloses the coating having a hardness approximately four times the hardness of Cr. Examiner notes that hardness is measured in many different ways because the term hardness can mean anything from resistance to shape change to resistance to scratching. As best understood, the superlattice structure of Sastri in view of Wong et al. results in a layered structure having a hardness of approximately four times that of chromium.

With respect to claims 10 and 11, the modified apparatus of Sastri discloses the coating having a resistance to wear which exceeds a resistance to wear provided by a coating of diamond-like carbon. Examiner notes that one measure of "a resistance to wear" is hardness itself. Since the coating disclosed by Sastri in view of Wong et al. is indeed harder than an example of a DLC, it has a higher resistance to wear. Likewise, a blade which doesn't wear as quickly as another also has a longer lifetime of use.

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sastri (US Patent 3,835,537 as previously cited) in view of Wong et al. (US Patent 5,776,615 as cited in IDS) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sanderson (US Patent 3,838,512 as previously cited).

Sastri in view of Wong et al. does not disclose a layer of Cr and a layer of CrN between the substrate and the layered pairs. Sanderson discloses a razor blade having a first layer of chromium to provided added strength and a second layer of a chromium based nitride which acts as better substrate for adhesion to following layers (column 7 lines 13-24). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a layer of chromium followed by a layer of chromium nitride before the stacked pairs of Sastri in view of Wong et al. based on the teachings of Sanderson in order to provide a stronger razor that is a better substrate for adhesion of a following layer.

8. Claims 8, 12-14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sastri in view of Wong et al. as applied to claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9-11 above, and further in view of Grewal et al. (US Patent 5,142,785 as previously cited).

Sastri in view of Wong et al. (as applied to claim 1 above) does not disclose the blade being mounted in any sort of tool for shaving hair as is claimed in claim 8. Examiner notes that hand held razors are very common and well known in the art. The use of coated blades in the heads of these razors is also very well known in the art. Grewal et al. discloses mounting a coated razor blade in a shaver head (as shown in figure 1).

9. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sastri in view of Wong et al. and further in view of Grewal et al. as applied to claims 8 above, and further in view of Sanderson.

The modified apparatus of Sastri does not disclose a layer of Cr and a layer of

CrN between the substrate and the layered pairs. Sanderson discloses a razor blade having a first layer of chromium to provided added strength and a second layer of a chromium based nitride which acts as better substrate for adhesion to following layers (column 7 lines 13-24). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a layer of chromium followed by a layer of chromium nitride before the stacked pairs of the modified blade of Sastri based on the teachings of Sanderson in order to provide a stronger razor that is a better substrate for adhesion of a following layer.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-19 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. First with regards to the phrase "wherein the coating comprises an implanted layer of Cr that is implanted into the metal substrate". It is noted that this phrase has been interpreted as disclosing the coating has an implanted layer of Cr and the coating is implanted into the substrate.

With regards to the term "implant". In column 1 lines 37-40, Sastri discloses "These layers must have adhesion compatibility so that they remain firmly adhered to one another and to the substrate". Dictionary.com defines adhere as: to be united by a molecular force acting in the area of contact. The molecules of one item must penetrate or implant into the other item thereby allowing the adhering to take place. Therefore, since the layers are adhered to one another and to the substrate, they must be implanted to some extent to each other or they would not stay together as disclosed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Daniel Prone whose telephone number is (571)272-4513. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer D. Ashley can be reached on (571)272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

05 August 2009

/Jason Daniel Prone/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3724